



February 3, 2011

Reply to Attn of: 140

TO: Distribution

FROM: 140/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance of NASA Employees at Reception  
Sponsored by the Association of Science Technology Centers

The Association of Science Technology Centers (ASTC) is hosting a reception on February 16, 2011 in Washington, D.C. at the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the National Academy of Sciences. The purpose of the reception is to provide a forum for discussions about science education and public engagement in science.

Approximately 75 to 100 people are expected to attend the reception, including individuals from educational institutions, various Federal agencies, various embassies, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and science and technology professionals and decision makers in the Washington, DC area. The estimated cost per person of the reception is approximately \$25. Attendance at the reception will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss with other guests issues concerning science education and public engagement in science.

Based on the above, I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend this event. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect ASTC, including employees in non-career positions for which the Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect ASTC, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Stephens", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Robert M. Stephens